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ISL's new INSPIRE interface improves the way Hoosiers access information

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Library (ISL) recently launched a new version of Indiana's Virtual Online Library INSPIRE.in.gov. A collection of online academic databases, INSPIRE.in.gov has proven a vital tool for K-12 schools, universities, hospitals, and Hoosiers across the state that accumulated over 125 million searches in 2014.

State Librarian Jacob Speer stated, "The overall user experience of INSPIRE has improved with better search results and new features. We have streamlined the interface so that users can easily access the information they seek. There is also local content including Indiana Memory and Hoosier State Chronicles which highlight historical newspapers and documents."

Earlier this year, the Indiana General Assembly voted to continue funding the INSPIRE.in.gov data base as it has since 1998. INSPIRE.in.gov is a free resource available to all Indiana residents who have internet access. Other funds for INSPIRE.in.gov come from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and through a partnership with the Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI).

"I thank the Indiana General Assembly for valuing INSPIRE.in.gov," Speer said. "It is a cost saving tool for 237 public libraries, 71 academic libraries, over one million K-12 students, homeschoolers, hospitals, and all residents of Indiana. Nowhere else can you get this kind of access to full-text magazine and journal articles, reference books, pamphlets, images, almanacs, full-text historic newspapers and multimedia for free."